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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USOSCE 000198

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KCFE](#) [OSCE](#) [RS](#) [XG](#)

SUBJECT: FSC/VD99: U.S. DELIVERS POINTS TO NORWAY, RUSSIA  
AND BELARUS REGARDING "WEST-2009"

REF: STATE 93327

Classified By: Chief Arms Control Delegate Hugh Neighbour,  
for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) Per reftel, USDel (Neighbour and Meyer) delivered  
points (paras 29-33) to Norway, Belarus and Russia. Initial  
reactions are provided below:

¶2. (S) Norway--The new Norwegian military representative to  
the FSC (Colonel Terje Killi) said he was unaware that Norway  
had planned to participate in a U.S.-led inspection to  
Belarus during the combined exercise "West-2009." USDel  
explained the circumstances surrounding Russia's inspection  
to Belarus as well as Washington's intentions to speak with  
Belarus about the possibility of additional transparency  
measures. Killi asked whether, in the event the U.S. was  
offered an additional transparency measure, Norway would  
still be included in U.S. plans. USDel did not commit one  
way or the other, but promised to keep Norway informed.

¶3. (C) Belarus--USDel delivered points from Reftel, para 32,  
to Belarusian First Secretary Dimitri Krayushkin. USDel also  
thanked Krayushkin for passing in advance the text of his  
statement in the FSC regarding "West-2009" (informal  
translation by USDel e-mailed to VCI/CCA, original Russian  
version distributed as FSC.DEL/153/09). (Note. The statement  
provided total number of personnel and equipment  
participating in the exercise and reminded participating  
States that Belarus had notified the exercise in accordance  
with Vienna Document 1999 (VD 99) and, in addition, had  
invited neighboring states and military attaches accredited  
to the Ministry of Defense to observe some of the exercise  
activities. End Note.) USDel welcomed these measures noting,  
however, that these kinds of observations typically do not  
provide the same level of transparency as VD 99 verification  
measures. (Note. USDEL Joint Staff Rep reports that USDAO  
Kiev received one invitation to attend the observation event

on September 28 and plans to send an officer. End Note.)

¶4. (C) Krayushkin noted USDel's points and promised to forward them to Minsk. Krayushkin opined that Minsk had exceeded its obligations for verification and transparency. USDel emphasized that it was not/not suggesting that Belarus was obliged to provide additional transparency measures, but that such measures would greatly increase the transparency on an exercise unique in its size and scope and could be to the advantage of the GOB. Krayushkin said he would pass the message to Minsk and inform USDel when if and when he received an answer.

¶5. (C) Russia--After presenting points in reftel para 30 to Russia (Ulyanov), Ulyanov stated that he had been surprised that Russia had conducted a VD99 inspection in Belarus and said he was unaware that their inspection had exhausted the last inspection quota for Belarus for the year. Ulyanov said he would have to speak with Moscow for greater clarity before writing a formal cable back to Moscow. Ulyanov asked what type of transparency measures the U.S. envisioned. USDel said that would be up to Belarus, but that pS had conducted above quota inspections in the past. Ulyanov noted that he did not like the idea of an "inspection" adding that if anything, he personally would envision a "friendly visit." Ulyanov noted that Belarus had invited neighboring states and accredited attaches to observe the exercise. USDel welcomed these measures, noting, however, that observations typically do not provide the same level of transparency as other VD 99 verification measures.

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¶6. (C) Ulyanov noted that the Russian MOD has taken a dim view of voluntary measures recently, feeling that such measures are always one-sided. Ulyanov also noted that while Belarus was ultimately responsible for such transparency measures, Russia and Kazakhstan would have to agree since this was a joint exercise. Finally, Ulyanov opined that it was very late to expect Moscow to make a decision in time.  
FULLER